

## WATER BUGS

when my mother caught my father in  
the garden watching two waterbugs  
in the act of copulation  
I heard that through the walls  
many a night  
but when she hid herself in the  
rumbleseat of his car while he  
drove to his girlfriend's place  
and peeked out at where he  
entered  
she then broke in upon them  
in the act of copulation and  
I heard about that  
through the walls  
many a night.

I decided that when I grew up  
I wouldn't make my woman  
unhappy. but  
it wasn't to be: I made  
my women unhappy and they  
made me unhappy.

and I've watched butterflies,  
bugs, monkeys, people, dogs.  
little children with big thoughts  
are everywhere.

## THE YARDS

I have gotten what men get from such things  
by driving past the railroad yards  
never on purpose but on my way to somewhere  
and then I see the tracks and all the boxcars  
the tank cars the flat cars  
all of them still and so many of them  
lined that way and not a train anywhere  
where are the trains?  
I drive past glancing sideways at it all  
wide field of stillness  
then I am past the railroad yards  
and it wasn't the damned commerce of it  
that gave me what I got  
but something back there nameless  
always making me feel better  
as some men feel better looking at the sea

or the mountains or at wild animals  
or at women  
I like those things too  
especially the wild animals and the women  
but when I look at those old boxcars  
with faded designs upon them  
and those flats and those fat round tankers  
I get quiet inside  
I get what men get from such things  
I feel better and it's good to feel better  
not needing the reason.

## 2 BUDDIES

I am not sure of our exact ages  
but Moses was one of my first real  
friends:  
Jewish and very strange  
and my second real friend was  
Red --  
he had one arm  
and wore a cast on the other:  
an arm of pure white with a brown glove  
over the artificial fingers.

Moses vanished first.  
my father told me about him:  
he pointed to the garage  
a large white and yellow structure  
with sagging doors:  
"your friend Moses was caught in there  
doing something to a 5 year old  
girl. they got him."

Red was more durable.  
we went swimming together in the public  
pools and he had to take his arm off  
and he splashed about with his arm-and-a  
half, the little arm ending just below  
the elbow and it looked like it had  
tiny nipples on it  
but more  
they looked like tiny fingers.

the other boys got on him for his  
half arm and his tiny fingers  
but I was a very mean lad  
and I told them  
in terms most definite  
that the pool belonged to